

CLAIMS

1/ A portable article of the smart card type, the article comprising firstly a body and secondly an integrated circuit chip (9), said integrated circuit chip (9) having

5 a central processor unit (CPU) connected via a data and address bus to memories (ROM, RAM, EEPROM), and further including at least a first contact pad (VCC) suitable for providing the chip (9) with a power supply voltage, a

10 second contact pad (GND) suitable for grounding the chip (9), a third contact pad (D+) and a fourth contact pad (D-), said contact pads (VCC, GND, D+, D-) being electrically connected respectively to a first contact area (C1), a second contact area (C5), a third contact area (C4), and a fourth contact area (C8) of a set of

15 eight contact areas (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8) flush with the surface of the article body, said portable article being characterized in that the third and fourth contacts pads (D+, D-) are connected to an interface of the chip (9) and are suitable for providing data

20 transmission under the control of the central processor unit (CPU).

2/ A portable article according to claim 1, characterized in that the chip (9) further includes a fifth contact pad

25 (VPP), a sixth contact pad (RST) suitable for resetting the chip (9), a seventh contact pad (CLK) suitable for providing the chip with a clock signal, and an eighth contact pad (I/O) suitable for inputting and outputting data signals using an asynchronous protocol, said sixth, seventh, and eighth contact pads (RST, CLK, I/O) being

30 connected electrically respectively to a sixth contact area (C2), a seventh contact area (C3), and an eighth contact area (C7) of the set of eight contact areas flush with the surface of the article body.

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3/ A portable article according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the third and fourth pads (D+, D-)

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constitute a differential pair, the potentials present on said pads being opposite to each other.

4/ A portable article according to any one of claims 1, 2, or 3, characterized in that the third and fourth pads (D+, D-) are suitable for transmitting data using protocols defined in the universal serial bus (USB) standard.

5/ A method of transmitting data to an integrated circuit chip (9) of a portable article of the smart card type including an article body, said integrated circuit chip (9) comprising a central processor unit (CPU) connected via a data and address bus to memories (ROM, RAM, EEPROM) and further comprising at least a first contact pad (VCC) suitable for providing the chip with a power supply voltage, a second contact pad (GND) suitable for grounding the chip (9), a third contact pad (D+) and a fourth contact pad (D-), said contact pads (VCC, GND, D+, D-) being electrically connected respectively to a first contact area (C1), a second contact area (C5), a third contact area (C4), and a fourth contact area (C8) of a set of eight contact areas (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8) flush with the surface of the article body, said method being characterized in that the data handled by the central processor unit (CPU) is transmitted via the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-) connected to an interface of the chip (9).

6/ A method according to claim 5, characterized in that a fifth contact pad (VPP), a sixth contact pad (RST) resets the chip (9), a seventh contact pad (CLK) provides the chip (9) with a clock signal, and an eighth contact pad (I/O) provides data signal input and output using an asynchronous protocol, said sixth, seventh, and eighth contact pads (RST, CLK, I/O) being electrically connected respectively to a sixth contact area (C2), a seventh

contact area (C3), and an eighth contact area (C7) of the set of eight contact areas flush with the surface of the card body.

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- 5 7/ A method according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-) constitute a differential pair.
- 10 8/ A method according to any one of claims 5, 6, or 7, characterized in that data transmission via the third and fourth pads (D+, D-) takes place in both directions in alternation.
- 15 9/ A method according to any one of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that to process data transmitted via the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-), a clock is generated internally in the chip.
- 20 10/ A method according to any one of claims 5 to 9, characterized in that data is transmitted via the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-) using a synchronous communications protocol.
- 25 11/ A method according to any one of claims 5 to 10, characterized in that data transmission is provided at rates going up to a value of about 12 megabits per second.
- 30 12/ A method according to any one of claims 5 to 12, characterized in that data transmission is provided using protocols in compliance with the universal serial bus (USB) standard.
- 35 13/ A method according to any one of claims 5 to 12, characterized in that in order to transmit data via the third and fourth pads (D+, D-), the portable article is connected to a connector of a reader (2) in such a manner

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